

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION

(PCT Rule 66)

Applicant's or agent's file reference IGTECH.0061P		Date of Mailing <i>(day/month/year)</i> 19 AUG 2003
International application No. PCT/US02/24426		International filing date <i>(day/month/year)</i> 31 July 2002 (31.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC IPC(7): G06F 17/60 and US Cl.: 705/26		Priority date <i>(day/month/year)</i> 03 August 2001 (03.08.2001)
Applicant IGT		

1. This written opinion is the first (first, etc.) drawn by this International Preliminary Examining Authority.
2. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:
 - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
 - II ☐ Priority
 - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
 - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
 - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2 (a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
 - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
 - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
 - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application
3. The applicant is hereby **invited to reply** to this opinion.

When? See the time limit indicated above. ~~The applicant may, before the expiration of that time limit, request this Authority to grant an extension. See rule 66.2(d).~~

How? By submitting a written reply, accompanied, where appropriate, by amendments, according to Rule 66.3. For the form and the language of the amendments, see Rules 66.8 and 66.9.

Also For an additional opportunity to submit amendments, see Rule 66.4.
 For the examiner's obligation to consider amendments and/or arguments, see Rule 66.4 *bis*.
 For an informal communication with the examiner, see Rule 66.6

If no reply is filed, the international preliminary examination report will be established on the basis of this opinion.
4. The final date by which the international preliminary examination report must be established according to Rule 69.2 is: 03 December 2003 (03.12.2003).

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Mail Stop PCT, Attn: IPEA/US Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer Wynn Coggins Telephone No. (703) 305-3900
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International application No.

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I. Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☒ the description:
 pages 1-46, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
 pages 47-54, as originally filed
 pages NONE, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
 pages 1-3, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
 pages NONE, as originally filed
 pages NONE, filed with the demand
 pages NONE, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the written opinion was drawn on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages NONE
- ☐ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This opinion has been drawn as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed."

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V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. STATEMENT

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-56</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>NONE</u>	YES
	Claims <u>1-56</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-56</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-56 lack an inventive step under PCT Article 33(3) as being obvious over Kelly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,816,918) in view of Dickerson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,265,874) and Acres (U.S. Patent No. 6,244,958).

The combination of Kelly, Dickerson and Acres discloses applicant's invention. Kelly et al. discloses a plurality of gaming terminals, player identification devices, player cards issued to players and used for identification and storing game and monetary information, a financial host, player rewards awarded for player performance at particular games (fig. 4 [10, 10a, 10b, 108]; col. 3 line 55 - col. 4 line 4; col. 6 lines 34-63; col. 20 line 46 - col. 21 line 42; col. 23 line 65 - col. 25 line 5).

Dickinson discloses accepting deposit of funds in a first amount by a player, generating information regarding funds usable by said player in playing one or more games at said plurality of gaming machines, associating said information regarding said usable funds in an account represented by a file accessible by said financial transaction host, said file identifiable with particular player identification information, accepting player identification information at one of said gaming machines, using said player identification information to access said usable funds information, permitting said player to utilize said usable funds to play a game at said gaming machine, the use of a card to provide account and identification information to the gaming system, creating a financial account having information regarding associated usable funds, awarding winnings (). (Abstract; col. 3 line 38 - col. 4 line 50).

Neither Kelly et al. nor Dickinson et al. specifically disclose creating a gaming card associated with said financial account and representing said usable funds, nor said usable funds being greater in amount that the funds deposited by said player. However, Acres discloses creating a gaming card associated with said financial account and representing said usable funds, and said usable funds being greater in amount that the funds deposited by said player (col. 1 lines 21-24; col. 36 lines 47-51; col. 39 lines 30-49).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the disclosures of Kelly et al. and Dickerson et al. to specifically create a gaming card associated with said financial account and representing said usable funds, said usable funds being greater in amount that the funds deposited by said player, as disclosed by Acres, for the functionality of using a player financial account in a casino environment.

----- NEW CITATIONS -----

US 5,265,874 A (DICKERSON et al.) 30 November 1993; fig. 4 [10, 10a, 10b, 108]; col. 3 line 55 - col. 4 line 4; col. 6 lines 34-63; col. 20 line 46 - col. 21 line 42; col. 23 line 65 - col. 25 line 5.

US 6,244,958 B (Acres) 12 June 2001; col. 1 lines 21-24; col. 36 lines 47-51; col. 39 lines 30-49

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Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

TIME LIMIT:

The time limit set for response to a Written Opinion may not be extended. 37 CFR 1.484(d). Any response received after the expiration of the time limit set in the Written Opinion will not be considered in preparing the International Preliminary Examination Report.